

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 20 stand of record in the case.

Claims 1 to 20 stand rejected.

Explanation of Amendments in the Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (presently amended) A wheelchair lift apparatus for attachment to an automobile comprising:

a platform on which the wheelchair is arranged to be received;

a platform support;

a frame;

the frame having thereon mounting members for attachment to an underside of the automobile arranged to support the frame on the vehicle with the

frame horizontal and generally transverse to a length of the vehicle;

the platform support being movable while supported on the frame in a generally horizontal plane from a retracted transport position underneath the automobile to an extended operating position projecting outwardly to one side of the automobile;

the platform being mounted on the platform support for movement relative thereto, with the platform support in the extended operating position, upwardly and downwardly between a lowered mounting position of the platform in which the wheelchair can enter onto the platform and a raised entry position in which the wheelchair can move from the platform onto a floor of the automobile;

wherein the frame comprises a hollow container within which the platform and platform support can be received[.], the hollow container being substantially closable with the platform support in the retracted transport position.

20. (presently amended) The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein there is provided a pivotal end plate extending across the platform support at an end of the platform support opposite the automobile in the extended operating position, the pivotal end plate supported on the platform support for pivotal motion between a generally horizontal open position and a generally vertical closed position, wherein movement of the ~~cross-member~~ pivotal end plate to the closed position with the platform support in the retracted transport position closes the hollow container with the platform and platform support located therein.

21. (new) A wheelchair lift apparatus for attachment to an automobile comprising:

- a platform on which the wheelchair is arranged to be received;
- a platform support;
- a frame;

the frame having thereon mounting members for attachment to an underside of the automobile arranged to support the frame on the automobile with the frame horizontal and generally transverse to a length of the vehicle;

the platform support being movable while supported on the frame in a generally horizontal plane from a retracted transport position underneath the automobile to an extended operating position projecting outwardly to one side of the automobile;

the platform being carried on parallel levers each of which has one end pivotally attached to the platform and the other end pivotally attached to the platform support, the platform thereby being mounted on the platform support for movement relative thereto, with the platform support in the extended operating position, upwardly and downwardly from a lowered mounting position of the platform in which a wheelchair can enter onto the platform to a raised entry position in which the wheelchair can move from the platform onto a floor of the automobile;

the movement of the platform relative to the platform support being effected by one or more elongate actuators which are carried on the platform support and received so as to extend therealong in a plane generally parallel to the plane of the platform;

each actuator arranged to pull a chain portion which passes over an arc-shaped member at a base of a respective one of the levers, thereby actuating the parallel levers and the platform carried thereon;

the chain portion being attached at an end thereof opposite the actuator to the arc-shaped member on a side of a pivot axis of the respective lever opposite the actuator.

22. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 21 wherein the platform support is arranged such that it can slide into a hollow interior of the frame.

23. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 21 wherein the platform support and the frame are generally rectangular in shape with front and rear edges parallel and at right angles to the length of the automobile.

24. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 23 wherein the platform has front and rear edges arranged at the front and rear edges of the platform support.

25. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 21 wherein the frame comprises a hollow container within which the platform and platform support can be received.

26. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 25 wherein the frame is substantially closeable with the platform and platform support received therein.

27. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 25 wherein there is provided a pivotal end plate extending across the platform support at an end of the platform support opposite the automobile in the extended operating position, the pivotal end plate supported on the platform support for pivotal motion between a generally horizontal open position and a generally vertical closed position, wherein movement of the pivotal end plate to the closed position with the platform support in the retracted transport position closes the hollow container with the platform and platform support located therein.

28. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 21 wherein the frame defines a depth on the automobile such that it is retained on the vehicle underneath the vehicle during travel and wherein the platform and platform support are contained within the depth of the frame.

29. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 21 wherein the one or more actuators extend along the platform support parallel to a direction of sliding movement of the platform support.

30. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 21 wherein the

actuators comprise cylinders.

31. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 21 wherein the frame includes a pair of parallel spaced rails extending at right angles to the length of the automobile and wherein the platform support comprises a pair of parallel arms each arranged along a respective one of the rails and slidable therealong.

32. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 31 wherein the platform is carried on two pairs of parallel levers with each pair arranged on a respective one of the arms.

33. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 32 wherein the actuators comprise cylinders.

34. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 21 wherein the platform can be lowered to a height below that of the platform support and raised to a height above the platform support.

35. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 21 wherein the platform and platform support are carried wholly by the frame so as to be cantilevered in use from the side of the automobile.